

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the present amendment and the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-13 and 16-25 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 14 and 15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 3, 4, 7, 11, 16, 17, 20, 23 and 25 are amended to be placed in independent form by the present amendment without introducing new matter. Claims 3, 7, 16, 20 and 23 were also amended to correct lack of antecedent basis problems without adding any new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Pothier (U.S. Patent 4,794,396); and Claims 3-13 and 16-25 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

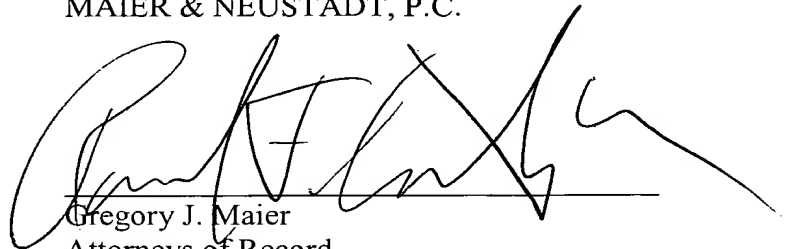
At the outset, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 3-13 and 16-25 include allowable subject matter. In light of that indication, Claims 3, 4, 7, 11, 16, 17, 20, 23 and 25 are rewritten in their respective independent form. In addition, Claims 5, 6, 8-10, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 24 should be allowed, among other reasons, as depending from Claims 4, 7, 17, 20 and 23, which should be allowed as just explained.

Also, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Pothier is rendered moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 1, 2, 14 and 15.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, and in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 3-13 and 16-25 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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